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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PASSES HOUSE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2356, the Shays-Meehan Campaign Finance Reform bill by a vote of 240-189. Republican leaders mounted a vigorous attempt to derail the measure, by offering an array of “poison pill” amendments that, if adopted, would have splintered the bipartisan coalition in favor of the bill or else sent the legislation to a House-Senate Conference Committee, where it would have been buried for an indefinite amount of time.

Representative Robert T. Matsui (D-Sacramento) voted for the Shays-Meehan bill, and voted against all amendments designed to defeat it. Matsui was one of the earliest signatories to the discharge petition that ultimately forced the House Republican leadership to bring the legislation to a vote on the House floor.

“This vote was good for our democracy. It is clear that unlimited soft money contributions from corporations and special interests have eroded the public’s confidence in their elected officials,” said Matsui. “Enron’s access to the highest levels of government on critical issues like a national energy policy only underscores the problem. It is time to cleanse the system. I am glad that the House passed the Shays-Meehan bill, and I look forward to seeing it signed into law.”

H.R. 2356 eliminates “soft-money” donations to national political parties. It passed in a marathon voting session that lasted late into the Wednesday night. The bill now returns to the Senate, where it is expected to pass. The bill will then be sent to the President for his signature.

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